

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

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R 210116Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8463

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CHAO TZU-YANG NAMED AS FIRST SECRETARY IN SZECHWAN

1. ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER HIS SUCCESSOR IN KWANGTUNG, WEI KUO-CHING, HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED THERE, FORMER KWANGTUNG BOSS CHAO TZU-YANG HAS BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS FIRST SECRETARY IN SZECHWAN (DECEMBER 19 BROADCAST). ATTENDING ADECEMBER 17 MOBILIZATION RALLY IN CHENGTU, CHAO WAS NOT GIVEN ANY OTHER TITLES, BUT FROM PAST PRACTICE WE WOULD ASSUME THAT CHAO IS ALSO REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND FIRST POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE PROVINCIAL MILITARY DISTRICT. SZECHWAN'S FORMER BOSS LIU HSING-YUAN REMAINS UNACCOUNTED FOR WITH VARIOUS RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT LIU WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO KWANGSI OR KWEICHOW OR REMAIN IN THE AREA AS THE COMMANDER OF THE CHENGTU MILITARY REGION WHERE HE PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN ITS FIRST POLITICAL COMMISSAR.

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2. THE LONG DELAY IN ANNOUNCING CHAO'S ARRIVAL IN SZECHWAN IS

LIKELY DUE TO THE NEED FOR SOME PRELIMINARY "BREAKING IN" EFFORTS WHICH CHAO HAD TO CONDUCT FOR WEI KUO-CHING IN KWANGTUNG AND PRESUMABLY WHICH LIU ALSO PROVIDED FOR CHAO IN SZECHWAN. CHAO'S APPOINTMENT TO THE SZECHWAN POSTS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR PROMOTION FOR HIM AND RECOGNITION FOR THE EFFORTS HE MADE IN CALMING DOWN TROUBLESOME SITUATIONS IN KWANGTUNG AND BOOSTING THE PROVINCE'S AGRICULTURAL BASE. RECENT IDENTIFICATION OF SZECHWAN AS AN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM AREA AND A NATIONAL TARGET FOR THE "LEARN FROM TACHAI" CAMPAIGN MAKES CHAO'S POSITIONING ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT.

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